

ILLEGIB

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SAIGON

RYBAT

REFS: A. STATE 005747, 14 January 1970 *

B. SECDEF 8166, 16 January 1970 **

1. REFS RELATE TO PROJECT COMMISSIONED BY VIETNAM SPECIAL STUDIES GROUP AND EXECUTED ON VSSG BEHALF BY WORKING GROUP CHAIRED BY [REDACTED] OF NSC STAFF. [REDACTED] IS

[REDACTED] MEMBER OF WORKING GROUP AND IS ASSISTED IN THIS ENDEAVOR

BY [REDACTED] SHOULD BE ARRIVING

MOMENTARILY IN SAIGON AND BRINGING WITH HIM COPIES OF THE DRAFT

OF THE WORKING GROUP PAPER DESCRIBED IN REF B. THIS DRAFT WAS

THE JOINT PRODUCT OF AN INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE, ~~THOUGH~~ ~~THOUGH~~ ~~THOUGH~~

MUCH OF THE WORK WAS ACTUALLY DONE BY [REDACTED]

APPENDED TO IT ARE FIVE PROVINCE STUDIES. [REDACTED]

ON BINH DINH.

COORDINATING OFFICERS

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2		6	
3		7	
4		8	

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REF # _____	<input type="checkbox"/> FILE IN CS FILE NO. _____			
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CITE DIRECTOR 003483

PAGE TWO

2. AS INDICATED REF B, THE DRAFT WAS CONSIDERED BY THE SPECIAL STUDIES GROUP PRINCIPALS (KISSINGER, PACKARD, WHEELER, RICHARDSON AND GENERAL CUSHMAN, ACTING FOR DCI) ON 14 JANUARY. KISSINGER ANNOUNCED HE HAD SHOWN COPY OF DRAFT TO THE PRESIDENT, WHO ~~WAS~~ WAS FAVORABLY IMPRESSED. VNSSG REACTION WAS GENERALLY FAVORABLE, THOUGH ALL AGREED PAPER WAS A DRAFT AND SHOULD BE REVIEWED BY MISSION COMPONENTS, INCLUDING MACV, BEFORE BEING LOCKED UP IN FINAL FORM. WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR FRANK COMMENTS, ~~XXXXX~~ CRITICISMS AND SUGGESTIONS AFTER YOU HAVE ~~XXXXX~~ HAD A CHANCE TO EXAMINE IT.

3. WHILE DRAFT BEING REVIEWED IN FIELD CERTAIN FOLLOW-ON ACTIONS WILL ALSO BE UNDERTAKEN. THESE WILL INCLUDE INITIATION OF SEVEN ADDITIONAL PROVINCE STUDIES, WITH ASSUMING RESPONSIBILITY FOR KIEN HOA (OTHER PROVINCES WILL BE QUANG NAM, KONTUM, KHANH HOA, BINH THUAN, BINH DUONG AND CHAU DOC). WORK WILL ALSO CONTINUE ON FIVE PROVINCES ALREADY STUDIED TO ADD GREATER DEPTH

25X1

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3		7	
4		8	

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☐ INDEX

☐ NO

☐ RETURN TO

BRANCH

☐ FILE KID

PER

#

☐ FILE IN CS FILE NO.

FILE

FILE, VR.

(classification)

(date and time filed)

(date)

(reference number)

PAGE THREE

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003483

TO EXISTING WORK AND LOOK MORE CLOSELY INTO IMPACT OF VIETNAMESE REGIONAL AND POPULAR FORCE COMPONENTS ON SECURITY AND CONTROL CONDITIONS.

4. IN CONJUNCTION THIS FOLLOW-ON ENDEAVOR WE WISH TO SEND

TO VIETNAM IN NEAR FUTURE.

DID BINH DINH STUDY AND WE WANT HIM TO PROCEED TO BINH

DINH FOR TWO TO THREE WEEKS FIELD WORK AMPLIFYING RESEARCH

ALREADY DONE IN WASHINGTON. ITINERARY WILL FOLLOW. ILLEGIB

5. WOULD APPRECIATE NOT ONLY YOUR REACTION TO PAPER ITSELF BUT ALSO YOUR PRIVATE COMMENTS ON WAY IT RECEIVED BY EMBASSY AND MACV, WHOSE FEATHERS COULD WELL BE RUFFLED BY BEING HIT WITH DOCUMENT SENIOR OFFICIALS HERE HAVE ALREADY REVIEWED.

6. THERE IS ALSO SECOND PART TO VNSSG EXERCISE INVOLVING ENEMY MANPOWER STUDY WHICH WE WILL POUCH YOU AS SOON AS FINAL DRAFT AVAILABLE HERE. THIS IS SHAPING UP AS EXCELLENT PAPER WHICH MAY HAVE GREAT MERIT OF RESOLVING NUMBERS DEBATE ONCE AND FOR ALL.

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3		7	
4		8	

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☐ FILE IN CS FILE NO. _____

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PAGE FOUR

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